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 RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 6162
 INFO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 7532
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 37795

USUN FOR RS BERSTEIN
 USIA FOR EU/PGM/P, GF

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PTER
 SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF ANTI-TERRORISM ALLIANCE
 PROPOSED BY STATE MINISTER MOELLEMANN

REF: A) USUN 03691, B) BONN 36789

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: FURTHER INQUIRIES INTO THE PROPOSED
ANTI-TERRORISM ALLIANCE SUPPOSEDLY SUGGESTED BY FRG STATE
 MINISTER MOELLEMANN HAVE INDICATED THAT IT WAS NOT A
SERIOUS POLICY STATEMENT OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING
 TO MOELLEMANN'S AIDE AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE PROPOSAL
 WAS MADE IN AN OFF-HAND MANNER DURING A POLITICAL SPEECH

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ON THE SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THE COUNTERTERRORISM DIRECTOR AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ADDITIONALLY NOTED THAT MOELLEMANN WAS SPEAKING IN HIS ROLE AS A FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PERSONALITY WHEN HE MADE THE PROPOSAL IN QUESTION. WE ARE ASSURED THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO SEEK CREATION OF SUCH AN ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

3. IN FOLLOW-UP TO REFTELS REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF AN ANTI-TERRORISM ALLIANCE PROPOSED BY FRG STATE MINISTER MOELLEMANN, EMBOFF SPOKE TO A MR. KOEBEL, AN AIDE TO THE MINISTER ON DECEMBER 18. KOEBEL POINTED OUT THAT MOELLEMANN'S PRESS STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 4 (REF B) WAS INTENDED PRIMARILY AS A BROAD POLITICAL COMMENTARY ON THE SUBJECT OF COMBATTING TERRORISM. THE MENTION OF CREATING A MULTINATIONAL FORCE FOR RAPID ACTION IN HOSTAGE SITUATIONS WAS, ACCORDING TO KOEBEL, SOMETHING OF AN OFF-THE-CUFF IDEA. EMBOFF WAS ASSURED THAT MOELLEMANN HAD NO INTENTION TO ACTUALLY SEEK THE CREATION OF SUCH A FORCE.

4. EMBOFF ALSO SPOKE ON THE SAME DAY WITH GERHARD SIEGELE, DIRECTOR FOR THE COUNTERTERRORISM SECTION OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. SIEGELE NOTED THAT THE MOELLEMANN PRESS RELEASE WAS A POLITICAL STATEMENT MADE IN HIS ROLE AS AN FDP PARTY MEMBER. IT WAS NOT, SIEGELE EMPHASIZED, A STATEMENT REFLECTING THE POSITION OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. SIEGELE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THE WHOLE IDEA OF CREATING SUCH A MULTINATIONAL FORCE WAS BOTH LEGALLY AND LOGISTICALLY UNFEASIBLE. MOREOVER, HE NOTED THAT THE PREVAILING VIEW IN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY IS TO MAINTAIN EXISTING ANTI-TERRORIST TEAMS IN THE VARIOUS WESTERN COUNTRIES AND WORK TOWARDS ENHANCING COOPERATION AND INFORMATION SHARING.

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END OF MESSAGE

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